

HA-1822  
1933  
Bel Air  
Private

The Chambers House, 404 Franklin St., faces east surrounded by a hedge on a tree-shaded corner lot. It is a 2 bay, 2 story four square, clad in aluminum siding, with hipped dormers breaking the roofline on the south, east, and north elevations. The hip-roofed front porch is carried on 4 square wooden posts linked by a square post balustrade; a sun porch is tucked into the north bay. Windows are 6/1 double-hung sash, triple in the first story front, doubled in the dormers and second story front, and single elsewhere. An enclosed porch in the rear and a side entrance (south) with a gabled stoop carried on doubled narrow wooden posts complete the exterior.

The Chambers House is the only remaining pre-World War II home on the section of Franklin Street north of Broadway. Most of the four-squares in Town were built in the 1920s, so this one, built in 1933 for Ernest L. Chambers and his wife, Virginia,, is a bit late for the style. Already along Hickory houses were being built in the more horizontal style that would be popular after 1945. [See the Sheridan House, HA-1808, and the Stinchcomb House, HA-1809.] The exterior and the interior use of space are typical of the style, although the marble fireplaces in the living room and on the sun porch are not.

HA-1822  
Chambers House  
Bel Air, Harford Co.

FRAMEWORK FOR IDENTIFYING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

3. Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

☐ 11. Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

☒ 12. Modern Period 1930 - present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme:

2. Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community  
Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Architecture

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function and Use: Private Residence

Known Design Source: unknown

Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF  
GENERAL SERVICES

Survey No. HA-1822

Magi No.

DOE   yes   no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Chambers House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 404 Franklin St. n/a not for publication

city, town Bel Air    vicinity of    congressional district 3rd

state MD county Harford

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>  </u> X occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture <u>  </u> museum
<u>  </u> X building(s)	<u>  </u> X private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial <u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational <u>  </u> X private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment <u>  </u> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>  </u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government <u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial <u>  </u> transportation
	<u>  </u> X not applicable	<u>  </u> X no	<u>  </u> military <u>  </u> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. James F. Galbraith, Jr.

street & number 404 Franklin St. telephone no.: 879-7245

city, town Bel Air state and zip code MD 21014

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse    liber 963

street & number       folio 99

city, town Bel Air state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title   

date       federal    state    county    local

depository for survey records   

city, town    state

## 7. Description

Survey No. RA-1822

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing resource count: one

The Chambers House, 404 Franklin St., faces east surrounded by a hedge on a tree-shaded corner lot. Built in 1933, it is a 2 bay, 2 story four square, clad in aluminum siding, with hipped dormers breaking the roofline on the south, east, and north elevations. The hip-roofed front porch is carried on 4 square wooden posts linked by a square post balustrade; a sun porch is tucked into the north bay. Windows are 6/1 double-hung sash, triple in the first story front, doubled in the dormers and second story front, and single elsewhere. An enclosed porch in the rear and a side entrance (south) with a gabled stoop carried on doubled narrow wooden posts complete the exterior.

Entrance is in the south bay of the facade, through the original door of 2 long panels with 4/4 windows above, directly into the living room. The open string dog-leg stair with narrow molded brackets rises against the south wall. A brick fireplace with green Delta marble mantel on the north wall is repeated on the sun porch. The dining room has a built-in buffet along the west wall. Next to the dining room on the south is the former kitchen, now a family room. To the rear (west) is the kitchen, done by the current owners, in the enclosed back porch. Upstairs are 3 bedrooms and a bath with original tub. The woodwork on both floors has a little cap to the lintel.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. HA-1822

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1933 Builder/Architect unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Chambers House is the only remaining pre-World War II home on the section of Franklin Street north of Broadway. Most of the four-squares in Town were built in the 1920s, so this one, built in 1933 for Ernest L. Chambers and his wife, Virginia,, is a bit late for the style. Already along Hickory houses were being built in the more horizontal style that would be popular after 1945. [See the Sheridan House, HA-1808, and the Stinchcomb House, HA-1809.] The exterior and the interior use of space are typical of the style, although the marble fireplaces in the living room and on the sun porch are not.

In 1942 the Chamberses conveyed part of the land and the house to Margretta Walker and her two young daughters Frances and Norma in trust, the trust to continue until both girls came of age. In 1943 Frances Daughten conveyed lot 2 to Margretta Walker in trust for the same purposes. Why the trust was set up and the relationships among these people has not been determined. After the girls came of age, the trust was terminated, and the three held the property jointly. By 1956 when the daughters sold the property, Margretta was not mentioned, although Ada Hilditch had become an owner. Probably Margretta had died and left her share to Miss Hilditch.

The current owners are Mr. and Mrs. James Galbraith, Jr. Mr. Galbraith teaches at Harford Community College and Mrs. Galbraith teaches in the nursing school at the University of Maryland in Baltimore. They are responsible for turning the kitchen into a family room and enclosing the back porch for a new kitchen.

Survey No. 44-1822

## 10. Geographical Data

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

[illegible]

**11. Form Prepared By**

city or town New Park state PA 17352

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

HA-1822  
Chambers House  
404 Franklin  
Bel Air, MD 21014

owner: James F. Galbraith, Jr.

963/99                    16 Nov 1974  
J. Henry Magness and Josephine S.  
to  
James F. Galbraith, Jr.  
2 lots, total 105' (Franklin) x 200' (Ellendale)

689/115                  27 Sept 1965  
Walter L. Fitzpatrick, Jr., and Helen E.  
to  
J. Henry Magness and Josephine S.

506/540                  18 July 1958  
William L. Emerson and Dorothy J.  
to  
Walter L. Fitzpatrick, Jr., and Helen E.

466/162                  30 July 1956  
Frances Elaine Walker Crowe and Raymond M. Crowe,  
husband; Norma E. Walker Stec and Frank Stec, husband;  
and Ada E. Hilditch, unmarried  
to  
William L. Emerson and Dorothy J.

435/196 and 435/193 5 May 1955  
straw deeds to and from Benjamin R. Cadwalader,  
unmarried, to get Ada E. Hilditch on the deed

1. 275/283, 5 Nov 1942 Ernest L. Chambers and wife  
conveyed lot 1 to Margretta H. Walker, trustee, for  
self and Frances Elaine Walker Crowe, then unmarried,  
and Norma E. Walker Stec, then unmarried, the trust so  
long as any of the beneficiaries were under 21.

2. 278/345, 22 July 1943, Frances Daughten conveyed  
lot 2 to Margretta for the same purposes.

3. trust terminated when Norma became 21 and the  
property became vested in Margretta, Frances, and Norma  
as joint tenants, not tenants in common.

lot 1 = 75 x 200  
lot 2 = 30 x 200

title to lot 1

- 275/283            5 Nov 1942  
Ernest L. Chambers and Virginia E.  
to  
Margretta H. Walker, Francis [sic] Elaine Walker and  
Norma E. Walker  
the trust as above
- 225/152            6 Oct 1932  
Caroline W. Harrison and Edmund P.H., husband  
to  
Ernest L. Chambers and Virginia E.  
lot 75 x 200
- 125/130            28 July 1908  
William H. Harlan and Bessie W.  
to  
Caroline W. Harrison  
22 a. +  
this was Munnikhuysen land
- title to lot 2
- 278/345            22 July 1943  
Frances Daughton, unmarried  
to  
Margretta H. Walker, trustee, F. Elaine Walker and  
Norma E. Walker.  
30 x 200 the lot is south of lot 1
- 278/344            10 July 1943  
Edmund P. H. Harrison, Jr., and Miriam Harrison, wife  
to  
Frances Daughton
- 276/480            9 Apr 1943  
confirmatory deed  
John L.G. Lee  
to  
Edmund P.H. Harrison, Jr.  
Lee was trustee to sell property in law suit of E.P.H.  
Harrison, jr., et al vs Sarah H. Pinkerton. He sold  
this land by 271/204 but the deed was not sufficient as  
the property was not described fully  
this property is part of parcel 1, 6.6 a. +/-
- 271/204            18 Feb 1932  
John L.G. Lee, trustee  
to  
Edmund P.H. Harrison, Jr.  
\$2000 for 5 parcels



HA-1822  
Chambers House  
Bel Air, Harford Co.  
Bel Air Quadrangle

Map details include:  
- Harford Co. Detention Center  
- Bel Air Memorial Gardens  
- St. Margaret's Sch.  
- St. Emmanuel Ch.  
- PO Library  
- Armory  
- Court House  
- County Jail  
- County Health Bldg.  
- Ames Ch.  
- Calvary Ch.  
- High Sch.  
- Middle School  
- Harford Mall  
- Watervale  
- Heavenly Waters Park  
- Shamrock Park  
- Gaging Sta.  
- Bynum Run  
- Plumtree Run  
- Winters Run  
- Childrens Fresh Air Camp  
- Whitaker Mill Road  
- Joppa Road  
- Old Road  
- Tolkate Road  
- Ring Road  
- Patterson Road  
- Plmtree Road  
- Mc Phail Road  
- Mill Road  
- Heig Road  
- Vale Road  
- Red Pump Road



HA-1782  
CHAMBERLAIN  
248005 (N. 111)  
1. 12/12/11

111  
E 24 2 11  
1. 12/12/11

404 FRANKLIN ST.  
BEL AIR



404 FRANKLIN ST  
BEL AIR